Shipyards under the Ministry of Defence

346. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shipyards under his Ministry are not working to their full capacity/potential; and

(b) if so, what are the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to ensure their efficient functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The ships being built by the three Defence Shipyards are equipment intensive and hence an assessment of capacity utilisation is difficult. The utilisation of capacity depends on the complexity of the vessel being built and the mix of the requirements of various facilities such as slipways, outfitting berth and associated shops. While the Mazagon Dock Limited and the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers have adequate orders for shipbuilding and their capacities are being augmented for the future, the Goa Shipyard Ltd. had loan order book position at the start of the year.

(b) The Shipyards have been interacting with the Navy and the Coast Guards so as to be able to meet the Perspective Plan requirements of the latter. It is expected that the shipbuilding facilities of the three shipyards will be fully utilised in the near future.

Africa Fund

347. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of AFRICA Fund;

(b) what are the contributions made by different countries to AFRICA Fund;

(c) what major programmes have been taken up by AFRICA Fund to help the Frontline States in Southern Africa; and

(d) what impact has AFRICA Fund made on these Frontline States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) AFRICA Fund has, till todate, received pledges in cash, kind and project assistance amounting to equivalent of US $250 million.

(b) A list of contributars is at Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) A list of projects taken up by India under the AFRICA Fund is at Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) The objective of the AFRICA Fund is to strengthen the economic and financial capability of the Frontline States to fight the Apartheid regime of Pretoria and to support the liberation movements in South Africa and Namibia in their unrelenting struggle against recist and colonialist oppression. The activities of the Fund have enhanced awareness world wide of the grave situation in the region of Southern Africa and of the urgency of providing help to the Frontline States and liberation movements.